

# ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

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## ALERT #109

TO: Department Controllers, Fiscal Officers and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Clifford W. Hall *Clifford W. Hall*  
State Controller

DATE: February 18, 1998

SUBJECT: *Exemptions from the Vendor Offset Process*  
*Fiscal Rule Hearing Scheduled*  
*Vendor Offset Statewide Training*  
*Change in Security for PB Transaction*  
*Field Control Section Expands Mission and Changes Name*  
*Transfer of Interest Earned by Certain Higher Education Institutions on Outside Bank*  
*Accounts to the State Treasurer*

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### Exemptions from the Vendor Offset Process

Programming and testing of the Vendor Offset System is progressing rapidly. It is anticipated that the first offsets will occur as early as March, 1998 for delinquent taxes. Offsets for back child support, delinquent student loans and other overdue debts to the state should begin in the following months.

The Vendor Offset System is programmed to intercept all payments from COFRS. Since some payments from COFRS were clearly not intended to be offset by the law and other payment amounts are set by statute, an exemption table (VOPE) was created to keep certain payments from being reduced. Payments to other governments and travel reimbursements to employees are already exempted from the system. Payments to beneficiaries under the law or fixed entitlements set by law would also be candidates for such an exemption.

If your agency makes payments that you believe should be exempted from this system, please contact Dennis Wolfard at 303/866-3895.

### Fiscal Rule Hearing Scheduled

A notice for hearing on changes to the fiscal rules will be filed on March 31, 1998 for a hearing on May 5, 1998. If you have an item you would like to be considered, please contact Dennis Wolfard at 303/866-3895.

### Vendor Offset Statewide Training

COFRS payments to vendors will begin to be offset in late March for delinquent taxes. Information and procedures regarding this new process will be distributed in early March.



Two general training sessions will be offered on March 17 to answer questions about the system. Training will be conducted in the Department of Law, Conference Room 610, 1525 Sherman Street. A morning session will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The afternoon session will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please contact Joyce Miller at 303/866-3816 for reservations. More training sessions will be added if necessary.

#### Change in Security for PB Transaction

The PB - Payroll Voucher - transaction is controlled in two security groups, DATA and PB. On March 16, 1998 it will be removed from DATA as it cannot be protected from deletion in the DATA group. This is critical as it could affect cash balancing for the state. If you need to modify PB's please check your security profile to ensure PB is in a separate group. If you need to modify PB's and you do not have a separate security group for them, have your security administrator add PB as its own group. Questions about this security group change can be directed to Dennis Wolfard at 303/866-3895.

#### Field Control Section Expands Mission and Changes Name

Beginning in January, 1998 the Field Control Section changed its name to the Field Accounting Services Team (FAST). In addition, the four team members that work directly with the departments/institutions will now be referred to as field accounting specialists instead of field controllers and the accounting position on the team will be referred to as the FAST accountant. This change reflects some new initiatives within the team.

FAST is working to expand the nature and types of services we are able to provide to our customers. The Team hopes to become more of a resource that agency/institution controllers and accounting personnel can call upon to solve problems, provide guidance and solicit input on new initiatives to their accounting and budgeting questions and problems. The Team is adding additional focus on developing customized training on appropriate topics. In addition, the Team is available to discuss the pros and cons of establishing self-directed work teams and assist those agencies interested in creating this new type of work unit. If your department/agency/institution would like to request customized training please contact your field accounting specialist, Linda Bradley, Roger A. Cusworth, Jeff Parker, or Phil Reed.

We believe with the new focus, the Team will continue to provide the high level of service in the day-to-day activities as well as provide new and improved service to our customers in different areas.

#### Transfer of Interest Earned by Certain Higher Education Institutions on Outside Bank Accounts to the State Treasurer

As a result of SB97-15, the following higher education governing boards now receive interest earned on funds held by the State Treasurer:

Trustees of the State Colleges in Colorado  
State Board For Colorado Community Colleges and Occupational Education System  
Board of Trustees of the University of Northern Colorado

Effective immediately, the above governing boards and the State Board of Agriculture are no longer required to transfer interest earned on outside bank accounts to the State Treasurer. This revises SCO Alert #96 issued on December 10, 1996. If you have any questions, please contact your field accounting specialist in the Field Accounting Services Team.